

Lesson 21: Tribulation, Armageddon, & Millennium

Lesson Introduction

Movies and books are created about it; wars and natural disasters have been mistaken for it. What is Armageddon? In this lesson we will answer that question, first by looking at what Armageddon is not, and then examining the timing and participants of Armageddon.

First, though, we will take a look at the Tribulation, and the participants and timing of that. We will end our lesson with a look at the Millennium – the 1,000 year period when Jesus Christ will be here physically on the earth, ruling and reigning with a rod of iron.

Lesson Outline:

Topic 1: The Tribulation

The Great Tribulation

Can I Be Saved In The Tribulation?

Topic 2: Armageddon

Participants and Timing

Topic 3: The Millennium

The Millennium Taught in Scripture

Types of the Millennium

Topic 1: The Tribulation

What is the tribulation? We see that in Scripture there is tribulation talked about. And actually we will go through tribulation. You say I thought you said we wouldn't go through the tribulation? Well the Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:12 Jesus also said it in (John 16:33). Then Revelation, even the Apostle John, the writer of Revelation, says that he is the companion in tribulation <Revelation 1:9 > That means he was in exile on the island of Patmos, he was away from everything he knew, he was on a place that was very very lonely, very quiet, very bleak. There he received this revelation of Jesus Christ. He says that he is a fellow in tribulation with other Christians. But that's not that tribulation; there is a difference. We're talking about the tribulation; we're talking about a time of trouble for Israel, the time of Jacobs trouble. (Jeremiah 30:7) It says that day, it's referring to that period of time, not one literal day, but the period of time, the seven years. So this isn't in reference to literal day but a time period, the day of tribulation. This Jacob's trouble, referencing Israel. So in this tribulation, the seven years and what is called the great tribulation it's like the burners are turned up to full blast. They're already pretty hot, from the first 3.5 years, but for Israel, they're kind of under a false peace. The first 3.5 years are not as bad, not as intense, they have this treaty supposedly with the antichrist and it's not as bad. But that last 3.5 years it's intense, it's terrible. So it's called very often in Scripture the great tribulation, but it's still all the seven year time period, the time of Jacobs's trouble. God is going to use satan's rebellion. He's going to turn it on its head, and he's going to win, and satan's going to lose, and satan's going to be chained up for 1000 years, and then for short time loosed again, and then cast into the eternal lake of fire. But satan's rebellion is going to culminate in the seven year tribulation period. Now the seventy weeks of Daniel, let's look at it.

(Daniel 9:24) So the seventy weeks are for Israel and Jerusalem. That's the main thrust and emphasis for the seventy weeks. (Daniel 9:24) So there are five things there that the seventy weeks will accomplish. Now we know that the first 69 weeks have been accomplished, from the going forth of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, to the coming of Messiah the prince, 69 weeks. That has been fulfilled exactly, 483 years. Some of those things have been accomplished during that time. Jesus did make the payment for sin, he made it possible for the world to be saved when he came. All of that happened. But there are some things that are yet to be fulfilled, like bringing in everlasting righteousness, so there's another week to be fulfilled and it hasn't happened yet. Do we have everlasting righteousness now? Absolutely not, not on this earth and we will. There will be everlasting righteousness on this earth, but that's still future because it hasn't happened yet. So it has to be future. So we see that there's a break between the 69 weeks, or 483 years; each week is a seven year period, so you have 7 times the 69, then you have one week left, one seven year period left to do all these things.

Assignment:

- Memorize Jeremiah 30:7

QUESTION 1

Though Christians will experience _____ here on earth, we will not go through the 7 year period known as The Tribulation.

QUESTION 2

The Tribulation is a period of time when God will again work primarily with _____.

QUESTION 3

The term "week" in Daniel 9 refers to 7 _____.

QUESTION 4

Right now we are in a _____ between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel's prophecy.

The Great Tribulation

(Daniel 9:25-26) So we see here in that final week, some terrible things occurring. And this is that prince that shall come, it's not the messiah; (Daniel 9:27) So seventy weeks have to do with Daniel's people and his holy city. God is not dealing with Israel specific right now. But we know that once again God will work exclusively with the Jew, with Israel, and that is in the future. That's during this seven year period, the tribulation. Romans 11:25 talks about the fullness of the times of the Gentiles, it's the end of that time. The end of Gentile world domination, and that will occur just at the end of the tribulation, and the battle of Armageddon. Then, Christ will rule and reign, and then the Jewish nation will be prominent again. The nations of the world will come to Jerusalem for offerings to the temple, and Jesus Christ will rule, literally and physically from Jerusalem, from the throne of David. So these things are still to come. The church, when raptured, God will deal with Israel exclusively again, but the tribulation – is identified when the antichrist confirms a treaty. That's how the world will know that the tribulation has started, then there are seven years from that point on. Revelation 11:2, the gentiles will tread upon Jerusalem for 42

months, Revelation 12:5-6, God will take care of Israel for the last 3.5 years when they are under the intense persecution, and Revelation 13:5-7 we see the beast will have power for 42 months, and again that's that bad time in the tribulation. Matthew 24, in several places talks about the abomination, and when that occurs, the great tribulation begins, that last 3.5 years such as the world has never seen before. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 tells us that antichrist is going to sit in the temple and call himself God. Revelation 13:17, he's going to demand worship as God. This again is all right in the middle of that seven year period.

QUESTION 5

The "prince that shall come" refers to _____.

QUESTION 6

The Tribulation begins with a seven year _____ with Israel.

QUESTION 7

The Great Tribulation begins with the _____ of the Temple.

Can I Be Saved In The Tribulation?

Some have said salvation is not available to those in the tribulation. What would you say to someone who says that? Well, I know one thing for sure. Those who refuse to trust Christ will reach a point that they will eventually accept the mark of the beast. Your heart gets harder, it's not something that God does, it's something that you are doing. The more you reject truth, the less likely you are to receive that truth later on. And there is going to be a strong delusion, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 talks about this strong delusion, and they are going to be deceived, and that would seem to indicate that it's not a very smart thing if you are not saved, to say well I'm just going to see if this all happens, and if it does, then I'll get saved. Well, you can do that, but there are a couple of problems if you want to do that. One is, you don't know if you'll make it to that point before you die. you could die tomorrow. We don't know if it's tomorrow, or a hundred years from now, the rapture and the tribulation, but you also have this strong delusion, and people believe this incredible lie. So does that mean there will be no saved during the tribulation? I have to go to Revelation 7 and I see 144,000 Jewish male virgins that are going to be saved. I also read in Revelation 7:9, a great multitude will trust Christ. This is before the throne, and (Revelation 7:9, 13-14) That is multitudes getting saved during the tribulation, that were of every race, every tribe. So anyone that says you can't be saved, and there's good men that say that, this verse would say that they are wrong. So I believe there will be many thousands, millions possibly, I don't know for sure the number, there's no number given here but it says multitudes. So we know people will be saved during the tribulation.

QUESTION 8

Those who _____ to trust Christ will reach a point that they will eventually accept the mark of the beast.

QUESTION 9

The more you _____ truth, the less likely you are to receive that truth later on.

QUESTION 10

One danger in waiting until after the Rapture to decide to trust Christ is that no one knows when they will _____.

QUESTION 11

Another danger in waiting until after the Rapture to decide to trust Christ is that you are risking being _____.

Topic 2: Armageddon

The tribulation, that will end at the second thing we are going to talk about and that's Armageddon. That's another word we hear a lot in Bible prophecy – Armageddon. Tribulation. Millennium. What is Armageddon? The first thing we're going to look at is what it's not. Sometimes that's the best way to know what something is, when you know what something is not. World War 1 broke out, people said this is Armageddon. World war 2 broke out, and "this is Armageddon." No the world has gone through some bad times, bad calamities, but none of them are Armageddon. There's also a battle in Ezekiel 38 that's described, we often refer to it as the battle of Gog and Magog. I'll tell you that that is also not Armageddon. There's reasons why I believe that's not Armageddon. In Ezekiel 38 it talks about a battle from Russia and it's allies against Israel. It talks about Ethiopia, Libya, Persia, gomer which some believe could even be Germany, Tagorma could be Turkey or Armenia. But anyways, there's this attempted invasion of Israel by these nations and will be referred to as the battle of Gog and Magog. The timing of this battle in Ezekiel 38 does not need to be before the rapture. The rapture is something that can happen at any moment – we say "imminent." Imminent means it could literally happen today. If Gog and Magog had to happen first, then the rapture couldn't happen today. Gog and Magog could happen before the rapture, but it doesn't have, and a lot of people believe it will happen right after the rapture in the middle of the chaos, an invasion of Israel will be attempted. God will stop the invasion, antichrist will take credit for it, and somehow get that covenant signed, the seven year peace treaty. Everyone is trying to get peace, always talking about peace. But this is not the battle of Armageddon. The battle of Gog and Magog is separate, it's different, and there's some reasons I believe that. One, at Armageddon, all nations come against Israel. In this battle in Ezekiel 38, it's some nations, not all nations. Big difference there. Here, in Gog and Magog, a natural disaster stops the invasion. At Armageddon, what is the battle, is the sword that comes out of the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ – basically His words. And at that Word, there is not even one bullet fired, everyone is destroyed, leveled. So it's a lot different, we see a lot of differences here. Ezekiel 38:13 says that other nations will protest the invasion of Gog and Magog, and there's no protesting the battle of Armageddon. Everybody agrees with the outcome of that battle. During Gog and Magog, Ezekiel 38:11 says Israel is dwelling in peace and safety. The Battle of Armageddon, Israel is not dwelling in peace and safety, because that is right after the great tribulation, the end of it, and it is a terrible time, the time of Jacobs trouble. Israel is in hiding in Petra, and God is protecting them. It's not a time of peace and safety, so these are different things. we have to keep that in mind.

QUESTION 12

The battle in Ezekiel 38 could take place _____ the Rapture but it doesn't have to.

QUESTION 13

The rapture of the Church is _____.

QUESTION 14

Before the battle of Gog and Magog, Israel will be _____ in safety in the land.

QUESTION 15

At Armageddon, _____ nations come against Israel; during the battle in Ezekiel 38, _____ nations come against Israel.

Participants and Timing

Some people suggest that Armageddon is the war in Heaven, Revelation 12 when Satan is kicked out of heaven. Well it's not the war in heaven, this is the war on the earth. There is another battle, some people call it the second Gog and Magog. In Revelation, there is something that happens after the millennium. In Revelation 20:7 it talks about the 1000 years expired, Satan is loosed. He's going to deceive the nations. The people that make it through the tribulation will have children. Those children won't necessarily be saved; they'll have to accept Jesus as the Savior, and some won't. So after the 1000 years Satan is loosed and he gets this rebellion going again, and there's this second battle of Gog and Magog and the Lord will put that down quickly and then cast the devil into the eternal lake of fire. So it is not the second battle of Gog and Magog, but the battle of Armageddon in separate and distinct and has a certain participant and timing to it. Who is involved in the battle of Armageddon? The participants according to Revelation 19:19 are the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies. All of the armies, led by the beast – antichrist, will come up across the earth. The river Euphrates will dry up so armies can march across and gather at Armageddon. Where is it, the place of the battle? Well we do know Armageddon, where that is. Har Megiddo, Armageddon, same name, is the valley of the battle and it's right there by the tell Megiddo. Megiddo is a famous place because of a lot of things that have happened there; the valley of the plain is 20 miles long, 14 miles wide. It's also called the Jezreel valley. Megiddo was a city originally built by the Canaanites. Deborah and Barak fought there, Saul and Jonathan were killed there, Josiah was killed by Pharaoh there, and even more recently, Napoleon had a defeat there. It's called the battleground of Palestine, it's where all the battles are fought because there is a natural funnel of land from all directions and they meet up there. Now we also see the valley of Jehoshaphat listed as the place of the battle of Armageddon and Jerusalem. By the way, no one can find the valley of Jehoshaphat; if it existed, no one knows where it is. Some people think that when the mount of Olives splits when Jesus returns, that's the valley of Jehoshaphat. But I think it's going to be the whole region, from Jerusalem all the way north to the valley of Jezreel. The armies of the world collect, with their great military might, and there they are literally going to fight with Jesus Christ. He returns, white horse, the saints with Him, and the battle is over. Let's read about that real quickly, Revelation 16:14-16). The battle of Armageddon, the very last thing that happens at the very end of the tribulation. It's actually the transition from the tribulation to the millennium. There's some time after the battle of Armageddon, setting up of the millennium, there's some time in there too, but that's basically what that is. The end of the tribulation, just before the millennium. What is the end of the battle? Well I've already said that they lose and Jesus wins, but let's read about that in verse 19 of Revelation 19. (Revelation 19:19 & 21). It says in another place that the blood will be as high as the horses' bridle. This is going to be a slaughter, and it's going to be the end of man's rebellion against God. This is all going to happen at the end of the Tribulation.

QUESTION 16

The Antichrist will lead the _____ of the earth and their armies to fight against Christ at Armageddon.

QUESTION 17

The location of Armageddon will be the _____ Valley.

QUESTION 18

What is referred to as the “battle” of Armageddon will really not even be a fight, since Christ will _____ His enemies simply by His Word.

QUESTION 19

The battle of Armageddon signals the _____ of the Tribulation.

Topic 3: The Millennium

The millennium is 1000 years; that’s what it is, the millennium. Now, there are some people, churches and preachers that teach that we are either in the millennium now, or it’s already come, or there isn’t a millennium. I don’t see the lamb and the lion laying down together today. I think if you took a lamb and a lion, even if the lion was tame, I think after a few days in the same cage there would only be a lion left. That’s just how it is. After sin, I think God put this into animals. Once sin entered the world, death by sin, before that, I think there wasn’t death or shedding of blood. The first shedding of blood was for the animal coats to clothe Adam and eve, the sacrifice was made, and they’d never seen blood before. Then we know the murder of abel by cain, and blood has been shed and will continue to be shed until the millennium when the lion and lamb will lay down together. But God talks about the millennium. When Constantine said “my empire and the world will now be Christian,” and they basically took a sword and put it to people’s throat’s and said, “are you a Christian?” That’s not Christianity; but that was the official religion. Before that, there was no confusion about the millennium. Everyone thought that there would be Christ returning before the millennium, before the 1000 year rule and reign. But today it’s all messed up, everyone is all over the place. In Christianity at the time of Constantine, as he established Christianity as the state religion, the premillennial view was starting to tone down, and the expectation of Christ’s speedily return, because things that were happening in the world and because he hadn’t come. So they began to look on the temporal supremacy of Christianity as the fulfillment of the promised reign of Christ on the earth. Well that hasn’t panned out, and it’s not the case. Jesus is coming again, and he will come back at the battle of Armageddon, and he will set up a kingdom for 1000 years. That is the millennium. He comes before that, and that hasn’t happened yet. Let’s look at (Psalm 2:6-9) The Bible says Jesus will rule with a rod of iron from the throne of David on the earth. We will rule and reign with him, based on your stewardship of the time, treasure, and talents that God has given you. You’ll have a position of authority. If you’ve done very little for the Lord, then you’ll have a very low place of authority. If you’ve done a lot for Him, you’ve sacrificed, you haven’t done it for the praise of man, you’ve done it just because you love God, you haven’t let the world steer you or influence you away from serving him,

you're going to have a great reward and a great position of authority in the millennium and I believe beyond.

QUESTION 20

Jesus is coming again, and he will come back at the battle of Armageddon, and he will set up a _____ for 1000 years.

QUESTION 21

Most Christians throughout history have had a deep _____ of Christ's return.

QUESTION 22

During the Millennium, Jesus will _____ from the throne of David.

QUESTION 23

Our position during the Millennium will be based on our _____ of the time and talents God gave us.

The Millennium Taught in Scripture

Matthew 24, Christ teaches about the millennium. Isaiah 2, Scriptures teach it. Psalm 72:1-4, the psalmist teaches the millennium. Angels declare it in Luke 1. The outline of the Gospel of Mark, that he had control of the sea, when the wind and waves obeyed him, he healed the sick. These are all pictures of what it's going to be like in the millennium. Acts 3:20-21 the apostles preached the millennium. Romans 8 says nature longs for the restoration, when everything will be made right, and that's the millennium. The rule and reign, 1000 years, Jesus ruling on the earth. (Revelation 20:1-7) We'll see that, all over the place. 1000 years, many times it is listed, and that is referring to the millennium, a 1000 year time period. Look at verse 6 (Revelation 20:6). Ruling and reigning. Ephesians talks about it as the age to come. There's an age to come, there's a time period, the millennium. Zechariah 14 calls it the day of the Lord. The term "day of the Lord" is found 23 times in Scripture. The terms "that day" or "the great day", all referring to the millennium, are found more than 75 times in the Bible; so the millennium is found all through Scripture, and it's going to be happening and it's going to be a wonderful time. It's going to be the restitution of all things; all things are going to be brought back to the way they should be, the way that God originally intended it to be. He will be here ruling and reigning, God's promised king will be upon the throne of David in Israel. Isaiah 11 talks about God restoring Israel to the promised land, Zechariah 14:16 says all nations will come to worship the king, Jeremiah 31:33-34 – God is going to write his law upon their hearts. This is the millennium. We also find a redistribution of land, we find the reconstruction of Jerusalem happening in the millennium. Jeremiah 33:14-16 talks about God performing all that he has promised to Israel – it's the fulfillment of all the promises, the Davidic covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, all the promises of God to Israel, all done. Do you remember the stone that fell on the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel 2:44? That stone is Christ, and becomes a mountain; that's the millennium. The stone becomes a mountain, and that will stand forever, Daniel 2:44.

QUESTION 24

The Millennial _____ of Christ is taught throughout the Scriptures.

QUESTION 25

The Millennium will be a time of _____ of all things.

QUESTION 26

The Millennium will be a _____ of all that He has promised to Israel.

QUESTION 27

The rule and reign of Christ during the Millennium will never _____.

Types of the Millennium

There's some types of the millennium; in scripture we read about the year of jubilee, and that was the year in which everything returned to its rightful owner. That's a picture of the millennium, where everything is going to be returned to its rightful owner. The feast of tabernacles is a memorial of leaving Egypt, but it's also a picture of Israel's restoration and regathering, the feast of tabernacles. Another place we find a type of millennium in scripture is the Sabbath. It's the rest that is to come. The ultimate rest is the millennium. Then there are other places that we see the millennium pictured in Scripture. What is it going to be like? Well we know the church is going to be ruling and reigning with Christ, 1 Thessalonians 4:17. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 that we will be judging the world and angels, that's what we will be doing. We kind of think of the future, and of heaven, as playing a harp or something... There will be lots of things to do, it will be very real, like what we experience now, but with creation back the way it should be. Satan, who is the god of this age, during all of this time has carried on work to defeat the purpose and program of God. In contrast, the millennium has been a time period, and you say why a thousand years, why not just from that point on, why a thousand years, then a final rebellion? Well I believe it is to showcase that this is God's divine program. Now is Satan's program, from first sin until the end of the tribulation, Armageddon, and now here is God's program. This is the way God thinks it out to be. Here's a defined time period when Jesus will rule and reign and we'll see how it could be, and how it should be. Satan will be removed. I think that's another point of the millennium; even though Satan is gone, it's going to demonstrate what mankind is really like apart from Satan's influence. In other words, there is going to be a final rebellion of those that are born during the millennium, that don't trust in the Messiah. Even without Satan, it shows the deceitfulness of humanity. And I think that's another point of the 1000 years, then it will all be put down and Satan bound up forever in the lake of fire. Mankind, during the millennium. His spiritual condition during the millennium will be that he will only obey because he has to; I'm talking about mankind born during the millennium – those that survive the tribulation. Not many, but some will – their children during the 1000 years. His spiritual condition will be that he will obey because he has to. If Jesus is ruling with a rod of iron, there's going to be peace on earth, but some people will do it only because they have to, and that is why there is a rebellion at the end of the millennium when Satan is released, and that again proves that man is not naturally good. We also know the temple will be built in Jerusalem – Ezekiel 43. It's going to be the dwelling place of divine glory, there's going to be memorial sacrifices. You say why would there be sacrifices if Jesus died once for all sin? I believe there will be memorial sacrifices to remember, just like communion. So there will be sacrifices in the temple in

Jerusalem, the rebuilt temple, not the temple of the tribulation. It's going to provide a center for divine government, it will provide victory over the curse, a stream flowing east out of the temple is going to heal the Dead Sea. We always talk about the sea being dead, and there's no fish there, well there will be fish there. We're going to see these beautiful trees on both sides that can be used for medicine and food. So we find these things in Scripture talking about the millennium. The moral condition of the world is that Christ will rule with a rod of iron, any overt rebellion will be put down, and creation will be restored. Animals will again be subject to man, you won't have to fear animals, animals won't have to fear man, and the lion and the lamb will lie down together.

QUESTION 28

During the Millennium the _____ will be ruling and reigning with Christ.

QUESTION 29

The fact that some of mankind will still _____ Christ, even apart from Satan's influence, demonstrates what man is truly like.

QUESTION 30

The rebellion at the end of the Millennium proves that man is not naturally _____.